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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,576	01/09/2002	Thomas M. Lill	65899-0650	6586

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BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-0610

EXAMINER

PHAM, LAM P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2636

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/042,576

Applicant(s)

LILL, THOMAS M.

Examiner

Lam P Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 30-35 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23 and 26-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 24 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. Claim 34 objected to because of the following informalities:

"said comparison" in third line should change to "a comparison" to avoid lack antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 23, 26-29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Vernon** (US 4,695,823).

Regarding claim 23, **Vernon** discloses a tire monitoring system for a vehicle comprising:

a means (10) for receiving (from pressure sensor 16) and transmitting pressure data relating to a vehicle tire; and

wherein said receiving and transmitting means is adapted to determine a validity of said pressure data via testing by comparing it with a threshold value from resistor (29) using comparator (22) for detection of an out-of-range pressure signal, a valid

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signal for transmitting to the data receiver/decoder (12) as seen in figures 1-3; col. 2, lines 10-68 and col. 3, lines 1-9 and 23-40 and col. 4, lines 40-53.

Regarding claim 26, **Vernon** discloses the means (10) receiving pressure signals from pressure transducer and transmitting them to data receiver/decoder (12). Thus, it is inherently a transponder.

Regarding claim 27, **Vernon** discloses said receiving and transmitting means is adapted to selectively transmit said pressure data if said pressure is valid (an out-of-range pressure) as seen in col. 3, lines 23-35.

Regarding claim 28, **Vernon** discloses a controller (data receiver/decoder 12) for receiving said transmitted pressure data from said receiving and transmitting means (10) as seen in figure 1; col. 2, lines 23-31.

Regarding claim 29, **Vernon** discloses said controller adapted to provide information via display (14) to a vehicle operator based upon said pressure data (out-of-range pressure data) as seen in col. 2, lines 23-31.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 30-35 allowed.
5. Claims 24-25 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 23, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Norman et al. (US 6181241) disclose a method of allocating transmitter of a tire pressure monitoring system of particular vehicle.


Starkey (US 6417766) disclose a method and apparatus for identifying remote sending units in a tire pressure monitoring system of a vehicle.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P Pham whose telephone number is 703-306-4181. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A Hofsass can be reached on 703-305-4717. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Lam Pham  
October 10, 2003

  
JEFFERY HOFSSASS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600